

The Pleasant and Delightful

HISTORY

OF

Jack and the Giants.

PART THE FIRST.



NOTTINGHAM:

Printed for the Running Stationers.

THE
HISTORY
OF
Jack and the Giants.



CHAP. I.

Of his Birth, Parentage, and Discourse with a Count
Vicar, being but seven Years old.

IN the reign of King Arthur, near the Land
end of England, namely Cornwall, there
lived a wealthy farmer, who had a son named
Jack the Giant-Killer. He was brisk and of
ready wit, so that whatever he could not per-
form by force and strength, he compleated by
ingenious wit and policy, never was any per-
son heard of, that could worst him, nay, the
very learned many times he baffled by his
cunning and sharp inventions. For instance
when he was no more than seven years of age
his father, the farmer, sent him into the field
to look after his oxen, who were then a feed-

ing in a pasture: A country vicar, by chance, coming across the field, called to Jack, and asked him how many commandments there were. Jack told him there were nine. The parson replied, there are ten; no, quoth Jack, Mr. Parson you are out in that, it is true there were ten, but you broke one of them with your maid Margery. The parson replied, thou art an arch wag; Jack said, well, Mr. Parson, you have asked me one question, and I have answered it, I beseech you, to let me ask you another. Who made these oxen; the parson replied, God, my child; now you are out again, quoth Jack, for God made them bulls, but my father, and his man, Hobson, made them oxen. These were the witty answers of Jack. The parson finding himself fooled, trudged his way, leaving him in a fit of laughter.

CHAP. II.

How a Giant inhabited the Mount of Cornwall, and of the Spoil he made in the Neighbourhood.

IN those days, the Mount of Cornwall was kept by a huge and monstrous Giant of 18 feet high, and about three yards in circumference, of a fierce and grim countenance, the terror of the neighbouring towns and villages. His habitation was a cave in the midst of all the Mount; never would he suffer any living

creature to inhabit near him. His feeding was upon other men's cattle, which often became his prey, for whenever he wanted food, he would wade over to the main land, where he would furnish himself with whatever he could find. For the people at his approach would forsake their habitations, Then would he



seize upon their cows, and oxen, of which he would make nothing to carry over on his back half a dozen at a time; and as for their sheep and hogs, he would tie them round his waist like a bunch of candles; this he for many years practiced, so that a great part of the county of Cornwall was much impoverished by him.

CHAP. III.

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How Jack slew this Monster, and from that time he was called Jack the Giant Killer.

JACK having undertook this task, he furnishes himself with a horn, shovel, and pick-ax, and over to the Mount he goes, in the beginning of a dark winter evening, where he fell to work, and before morning, had digged a pit 22 feet deep, and almost as broad, covering the same over with long sticks and straw, and then strowing a little of the mud over it, it appeared like plain ground. This done, Jack placed himself on the contrary side, just about the dawning of the day. Then putting his horn to his mouth, he blew tantivee, tan-tivee, which noise wakened the Giant, who came roaring towards Jack, crying out, you incorrigible villain, you shall pay dearly for disturbing me, I'll broil you for my breakfast. Which words were no sooner out of his mouth, but he tumbled head-long into the pit, Whose heavy fall made the foundation of the mount to shake. O Giant, quoth Jack, where are you now? I fear you have gotten into lob's pound, where I will plague you for your most threatening words. What think you now of broiling me for your breakfast, will no other diet serve you but poor Jack? Thus having tantalized the Giant for awhile, he took him a considerable con upon

the crown of his head with his pick-ax, that he tumbled down, and with a groan died: This done Jack threw the earth in upon him and so buried him. And then going and searching his cave, he finds much treasure.— Now when the Magistrates who employed him, heard the job was over, they sent for him, declaring he should be henceforth called Jack the Giant Killer, and in honor thereof presented him with a sword, together with an embroidered belt, on which these words were marked in bright letters of gold.—

Here's the right valiant Cornish Man,
Who slew the Giant Gormoran.

CHAP. IV:

How Jack was surprized by a Giant, while he was asleep, and the danger he went thro' to gain his liberty.

THE news of Jack's victory was soon spread over the western parts, so that another Giant named Old Blunderbore, hearing of it, vowed to be revenged on Jack, if ever it was his fortune to light of him. This Giant kept an enchanted castle, situated in the midst of a lonesome wood. Now Jack about four months after, walking by the borders of the same place, in his journey towards Wales, he grew weary, and therefore sat himself down by the side of a pleasant fountain, and a deep sleep suddenly seized

that seized him; at which time the Giant coming
 died: there for water, found him, and by the lines
 him written upon his belt, knew him to be Jack,
 and that kill'd his brother Giant, and without mak-
 re.— ing any words, he catches him upon his shoul-
 him, ders to carry him to his enchanted castle. Now
 him, as he passed thro' a thicket, the rushing of the
 Jack boughs wakened Jack; who finding himself in
 pre- the clutches of a Giant, he was strangely sur-
 h an prized; this was but the beginning of his ter-
 were ror, for entering within the first walls of the
 castle, he beheld the ground all covered with
 dead bones and skulls of men; and the Giant
 telling Jack, his bones should enlarge the
 number of what he saw. Having said, he
 brought him into a large parlour, where he saw
 the blood and quarters of some that had lately
 been slain, and in the next room were hearts
 and livers, which the Giant to terrify Jack
 told him, men's hearts were chiefest of his
 diet, for he commonly, as he said, devoured
 'em with pepper and vinegar, adding, now he
 did not question, but his heart would make
 him a curious breakfast. This said, he locks
 up poor Jack into another room, leaving him
 there while he went to bring another Giant,
 living in the same wood, that he might partake
 of the pleasures they would have in the de-
 struction of honest Jack. Now while he was
 gone, dreadful cries and shrieks affrighted poor
 Jack; and especially a voice, which continually
 cried out,

Be

Do what you can to get away,
 Or you'll become the Giants' prey:
 He's gone to fetch his Brother, who
 Will kill and likewise torture you.

This dreadful noise amazed our poor Jack, that he was ready to run distracted. Then going to a window, he opened a casement, when he beheld afar off, the two Giants coming together. So now quoth Jack to himself, my death or deliverance is at hand. There were two strong cords in the room by him, at the end of which he made a noose; and as the Giants were unlocking the iron gate, he threw the rope over each of the two Giants' heads, and then threw the other ends across a beam, where he pulled with all his main strength, until he throttled them, and then fastening of the ropes to the beams, he returned unto the window, where he beheld the two vast Giants both black in the face. Then slipping down the ropes, he came down to their heads, when the helpless Giants could not defend themselves; then drawing out his sword, he slew them both, and so delivered himself from their intended cruelty. Then taking the bunch of keys, he entered the castle, where upon strict search he found, three fair ladies, tied up by the hair of their heads, and almost starved to death, who told Jack, how that their husbands had been slain by the Giants, and they were kept many days without food, in order to force them to feed upon the flesh of their

their murdered husbands, which they could not, if they were to starve to death. Sweet ladies, says he, I have destroy'd the Monster,



with his brutish brother, by which I have obtained your liberties. This said, he presents them with the keys of the castle, and went on his journey to Wales.

CHAP V.

Jack travelled into Flintshire, and what happened.

JACK having but little money, he thought it prudent to make the best of his way by travelling

travelling hard ; and at length losing his road, was benighted, and could not get a place of entertainment ; till coming to a valley placed between two hills, he found a large house in a lonesome place, and by reason of his present necessity, he took courage for to knock at



the gate, where to his amazement there came forth a monstrous Giant, having two heads, yet he did not seem to be so fiery as the other two had been ; for he was a Welch Giant, and all that he did was by private and secret malice, under the false shew of friendship. Poor Jack telling his condition, he bids him welcome, shewing him a room with a bed in it, where he might take his night's repose. Whereupon Jack undresses, and as the Giant was walking

bad, to another apartment, Jack heard him mutter
of forth these words unto himself :

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k at
Tho' here you lodge with me this night,
You shall not see the morning light,
My Club shall dash your brains out quite,

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eads,
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and
alice,
Jack
ome,
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lking
to
Sayest thou so, quoth Jack? is that one of
your Welch tricks, yet I hope to be cunning
enough for you. Then he getting out of his
bed, and feeling about in the dark, he found
a thick billet, and laid it in the bed in his
stead, and then hid himself in a dark corner
of the same room. When in the dead time of
the night came the Welch Giant with his club,
and struck several heavy blows on the bed where
Jack had laid the billet, and then returning to
his own chamber, supposed he had broken all
the bones in his skin; the next morning Jack
came to give him thanks for his lodging. O
quoth the Giant, how have you rested? did
you not feel something in the night? No,
nothing, quoth Jack, but a rat, which gave me
two or three flaps with her tail. Soon after
the Giant arose, and went to breakfast with a
bowl of hasty pudding, giving Jack the same
quantity, who being loath to let the Giant
know he could not eat with him, got a large
leathern bag, putting it artificially under his
coat, into which he put his pudding, telling
the Giant, how he would shew him a trick,
then taking a large knife, he ripped open the
bag, which the Giant thought to be his belly,
out

and out came the hasty pudding, which the Welch Giant seeing, cried out, Cots-plutter hur can do that trick herself. So taking the sharp knife, he ript open his belly from the top to the bottom, and out drops his tripes and trolly-bubs, so that hur fell down for dead. Thus Jack outwitted the Welch Giant, and proceeded on his journey.

Thus ends the first part, which leads to the second, in which you'll find a further account of the valiant exploits, and bold atchivements of this noble Hero Jack the Giant Killer, both entertaining and agreeable to the Reader.



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